Exhibit 15-Part 1



















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IN 1984, THE English actress Jane Birkin hopped on an Air France flight from Paris to London. As she hurried down the aisle, the contents of her handbag spilled to the floor. Luckily, she happened to be sitting next to Jean-Louis Dumas, then the executive chairman of Hermès, and somewhere over the English Channel, the two came up with the design for her now-iconic namesake carryall, which they sketched out together while on board. The Birkin would be bigger than the Kelly, but smaller than the Haut à Courroies, and contain interior pockets for storing belongings, as well as a burnished flap top with the house's signature

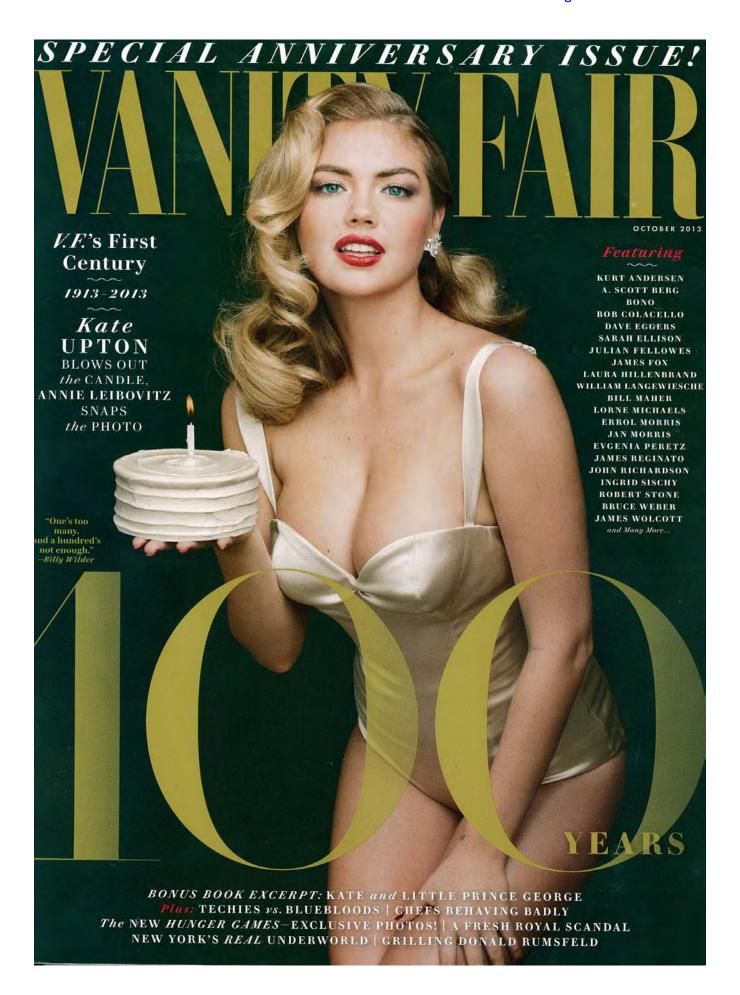
saddle stitching and a turn-lock swivel clasp. It became the most coveted of Hermès's handbags, with yearslong wait lists and limited editions in numerous colorways and skins.

This fall, the house will introduce the Birkin 3-in-1, a practical new riff on the original design. In a nod to modern-day needs, it includes a canvas pochette bearing the bag's classic leather flap that can be removed and carried as an envelope clutch (ideal for stashing a phone, a mask and a few other essentials). When the pouch is attached to the bag - its flap lies across the top and fixes to the gussets, while the Birkin's handles pass through

the clutch's slits to keep it in place - it looks like a classic Birkin. But when the clutch is taken out, the bag becomes an open, spacious tote, roomy enough to fit a laptop for working on the go and available in a caramel-colored Barenia Faubourg calfskin or a Togo calfskin in gold, biscuit, black and sapphire. "The Birkin 3-in-1 is constructed as a puzzle," says Catherine Fulconis, who oversees Hermès's equestrian and leather goods. "One bag, two elements, three uses: It can be a tote, a pouch or a tote and pouch combined. It becomes everything in one." A versatile trompe l'oeil, indeed.











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1. L.L. Bean

THE DETAILS:
The design of the company's signature "boat and tote" bag, introduced more than 30 years ago, is based on the sacks used to carry ice blocks for old-fashioned

iceboxes. To modernize its
supersuccessful design, Bean has
added a zip top. Canvas bag available
with cranberry, green, red,
black, teal (shown), and navy-blue trim.
WHERE TO GET IT: Bag, about
\$17. L.L. Bean stores,
or call (800) 809-7057 for information.

2. Kate Spade

THE DETAILS: Designed for the urban bargain hunter, this two-tone tote is modeled after the shopping bag and lined in colorful gingham.

Trim colors range from black or brown to green (shown) or cranberry. The classic shape is also available in solid colors cut from nylon or leather.

WHERE TO GET IT:

Bag, about \$110. Kate Spade, NYC.

3. Nine West

THE DETAILS: New for spring 1998,
Nine West designs "the Bermuda
Collection" of bags based on that
ultimate preppy carryall.
Stained wooden handles match
the decorative wooden tag.
Inside zip pocket. Also available in
blue, mint, natural, and orange.
WHERE TO GET IT:

Bag, about \$59. Nine West stores.

4. Jerome Gruet

THE DETAILS: Dubbed the "transit" bag because of its commuter-friendly shape, this canvas tote is available in ten colors with thirteen variations on the center stripe.

Three different sizes—day bag, shopping bag, and beach bag—accommodate whatever's needed on the road.

WHERE TO GET IT:

Bag, about \$165. Scoop, NYC.

5. Prada

THE DETAILS: This canvas tote
(new for spring) is typically
Prada—i.e, style with a quirky twist.
It is crafted from utilitarian
canvas on the outside, fuchsia
satin on the inside, and
topped with carnation-pink
crocodile handles.
The handles also come in
ginestra (yellow) crocodile.
WHERE TO GET IT:
Bag, about \$820. Prada, NYC;
Neiman Marcus.

6. Hermès

The Birkin bag, designed for actress Jane
Birkin in 1984, now has the longest waiting list of any
Hermès handbag—up to six months. It can be customordered in any color and almost any fabric (even ostrich skin or denim).

SPOTTED ON: Kate Moss,

Linda Evangelista,
Elle Macpherson, Anne Bass.
WHERE TO GET IT:

Bag, about \$5,275. Hermès boutiques, or call (800) 441-4488 for information.



